21st December 1954]

SRI S. JAYARAMA REDDIAR :—" இந்த மதிகெட்டான் என்ற பெயரை மாற்றி அந்த ஏரிக்கு வேறு பெயர் வைக்க அரசாங்கம் முன் வருமா ? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" தனிக் கேள்வி போடுங்கள்."

Lathi charge on Taj Mahal Beedi Workers at Washermanpet, Madras.

* 491 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there was any lathi charge by police on Taj Mahal Beedi Workers at Washermanpet, Madras, on 13th November 1954; and

(*b*) how many workers were

(i) injured;

(ii) arrested by the police on that day; and

(iii) either admitted or treated as out-patients in the hospitals as a result of lathi charge?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (*b*) It is reported that forty workers were injured. Seven of them were admitted in the hospital as in-patients while the rest were treated as out-patients. The number of persons arrested by the police so far is 40."

* 492 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any enquiry was conducted into the lathi charge of the Police on the beedi workers employed in Taj Mahal Beedi Factory, Tiruvottiyur, on 13th November 1954; and

(*b*) if so, what the findings of the enquiry were and what action was taken on the finding?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

" (*b*) Does not arise."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" May I know whether it is a fact that the police prevented the workers from going near the factory, whether the police adopted a provocative attitude towards the workers and whether the lathi charge on the workers was ordered to help the owner of the factory? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" No Sir. The Police were there to prevent any breach of the peace. Workers were allowed to picket peacefully. But when they resorted to violence, a lathi charge was ordered."